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Alden House Honored by Colonial Dames



Elln Hagney, director of the John Alden House, with Linda Osborne, Alden Kindred president, displaying a marker given by Mrs. Allan Finley of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century.

The National Society of the Colonial Dames XVII Century have marked the John Alden House in Duxbury as an authentic piece of history. The marking took place on Sept. 11 at the Alden House and was hosted by the Massachusetts Bay Chapter of Falmouth. Linda Osborne, president of the Alden Kindred of America, accepted the bronze marker from Mrs. Allan Finlay of the Massachusetts Bay Chapter of Falmouth. Gov. William Weld honored the marking by proclaiming Sept. 11, 1996 to be John Alden House Day. The proclamation, given on Aug. 27, was to recognize the Alden House as the only standing structure built and lived in by Mayflower passengers and is living testament to the Commonwealth's rich history and important role in the development of our nation. Events on the day of the marking included an historical tour of the house and was followed by a luncheon at the Village of Duxbury, with 50 members of the Colonial Dames in attendance from all over the United States. Following the luncheon, Linda Osborne lectured on the history of the Kindred.

"The National Society of the Colonial Dames XVII Century is an organization that is well-respected by historians," said Elln Hagney, director of the John Alden House and the Alden Kindred of America. "I am very pleased that the John Alden House has been recognized by such a prestigious society. The Governor's proclamation is also a rare honor."

The Alden House was first recognized historically by the American Assn of Museums in 1969 and was later placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 1973. The marking by the Colonial Dames further establishes the Alden House as an important landmark.

Mrs. Finlay is a member of the Mass. Bay Chapter of Falmouth and is the motivational force behind the marking. "We are privileged to mark the John Alden House in Duxbury built by John Alden and his sons. We are proud to have a direct descendant in our chapter, which makes the marking especially meaningful to this chapter," she said.

The Colonial Dames XVII Century have their headquarters in Washington D.C., and are comprised of 316 chapters with a total membership of 14,276. They first organized in July of 1915. The organization is dedicated to aid in the preservation of historical sites and to fostering interest in colonial research as well as the development of a library specializing in 17th century American colonial data. They also aid in the education of youth and strive to maintain the high principles of virtue, courage and patriotism which led to the independence of the colonies. The Massachusetts Bay Chapter of Falmouth is one of 7 chapters in the state and preserving and stimulating interest in local heritage is one of the chapter's objectives. They have marked the Old Meeting House in Mashpee in 1986 as well as the Hoxie House in Sandwich in 1992.

For more information call the John Alden House at 934-9092.